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PRESIDÊNCIA DO CONSELHO DE MINISTROS

Gabinete do Primeiro Ministro

Lisbon, 28th February 1984.

Dear Mr. Hall,

I adress this letter to you and to the other members of the House of Representatives who have written to me about the present situation in East Timor.

I must say that I am deeply touched by the interest shown by dedicated representatives of the American people towards the sufferings of the people of Timor.

My Government has followed with great preoccupation the tragic situation in that territory. We go on trying to develop our utmost efforts in the sense of improving the local living conditions and reach a just and fair decolonization for East-Timor.

We have therefore called the attention to the serious violations of human rights in that territory, trying to get all possible support from international organizations and other institutions.

Mr. Tony P. Hall
House of Representatives
Washington D.C.

.../...

PRESIDÊNCIA DO CONSELHO DE MINISTROS

Gabinete do Primeiro Ministro

I can assure you that the group of people from Timor mentioned in your letter may be welcome in Portugal. We are grateful for the effort of trying to obtain their departure from the territory occupied by Indonesian forces.

It has been an unfailing feature of the Portuguese political approach to that problem to show the greatest concern towards the people of Timor who, after the invasion, have expressed the wish to leave the country, either through the granting of passports issued by the Netherlands Embassy in Djakarta or in the frame work of repatriations organized by the International Red Cross. This is the general principle we have followed, in spite of the well-known economic difficulties Portugal has to face, because we think that it is a moral and humanitarian duty to provide the refugees from Timor with the welcome, lodging and assistance they need until they may be fully integrated in our society.

Let me, in my Government's name and in my own, express to you and to the representatives that wrote to me my most sincere thanks.

Yours truly,

Mário Soares

Prime Minister of Portugal